Neil Simon's

RUMORS

"It has to do with cousins and warts and hips . . .it's very complicated."

Directed
by
Katie Damron

April 21 - May 1, 1994

RUMORS

A Farce
by
Neil Simon

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Chris Gorman.....Erika Johnson Spinelli
Ken Gorman.....Scott Bronstein
Claire Ganz.....Suzanne Begley
Lenny Ganz.....David R. Brown
Ernie Cusack.....Rob Givens
Cookie Cusack.....Marcy Heath
Glenn Cooper.....Dean Long
Cassie Cooper.....Traci Quinn Duffy
Officer Welch.....Michael C. Slates
Officer Pudney.....Myra Yeatts

PLACE:
Sneden's Landing, New York

TIME:
The Present

There will be a fifteen minute intermission following Act I.

– PLEASE–

NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE THEATRE. The concession area on the porch will be open during intermission. NO PHOTOGRAPHS may be taken during the performance.

CAST NOTES

Erika Johnson Spinelli . . . Chris Gorman . . . Erika, a Spartanburg native, is a Features Reporter with THE ITEM. Her theatre background reaches back to junior high and high school productions and youth theatre with the Spartanburg Little Theatre. Chris Gorman is the first of what we hope will be many roles for Erika at SLT. She describes her character as "a vodka-drinking, cigarette-smoking socialite, not unlike myself." What is her favorite line from "Rumors?" "It has to do with

Cast Notes

cousins and warts and hips. It's very complicated," because it describes the show perfectly.

Scott Bronstein . . . Ken Gorman . . . The role of Ken marks Scott's first appearance at SLT and hopefully not his last. His only prior stage experience was in a high school production of "Once Upon a Mattress." We're sure you'll agree that he's done a fantastic job! Faithful readers will recognize Scott's by-line from THE ITEM, where he is a reporter. When he's not out chasing a story, Scott spends his time playing golf, bridge, and the guitar. He sees Ken as someone who is "always in control, never flustered, except when something goes wrong. Book smart, but not a lot of common sense."

Suzanne Begley . . . Claire Ganz . . . Owner of The Bed & Breakfast of Sumter, Suzanne studied at the New York Academy of Theatrical Arts for one year and appeared in an off-Broadway production of "A Hatful of Rain." Now she's sharing her talents with us and we're thrilled! Suzanne sees Claire as "a New York socialite. Very concerned about what other people think of her; very snobbish, very sarcastic; a bitch." Her favorite real-life rumor is "that Clinton is doing a great job and we're all better off."

David R. Brown . . . Lenny Ganz . . . Theatre regulars will remember David from his roles as Fagin in "Oliver" and Atticus in "To Kill a Mockingbird" among others. He has been a driving force backstage this season as sound designer on the first three shows and now he's stepping into the spotlight. Unlike his character Lenny, when it comes to rumors David claims, "I don't listen to that garbage." What's his favorite line? "I'm getting a new doctor. I'm not putting my life in the hands of the drama critic of Mount Sinai Hospital."

Rob Givens . . . Ernie Cusak . . . Rob is the last of our SLT first-timers in this show and he has certainly made his presence known! His only theatre experience was in high school, but he's done a wonderful job bringing Ernie to life. Rob describes his character as "old, self-confident, and great in a crisis situation." His favorite line? "If I had all of you in my group I would never need another group."

Marcy Heath . . . Cookie Cusak . . . Marcy helped kick off the 1993-94 season with her outstanding performance as Lettice Doufet in "Lettice and Lovage." She's back now to delight audiences as the kooky Cookie whom she describes as "charmingly annoying." A long time SLT veteran, Marcy also turned in a winning performance as Betty Meeks in the 92-93 season's hit "The Foreigner." Her favorite real life rumor is that the cast and crew are getting paid. Her favorite line? "I can unscrew the toilet myself," because you never know when it will come in handy.

Dean Long . . . Glenn Cooper . . . Dean is operations manager at Kmart and a Sumter native. He has appeared in numerous high school, college, and Sumter Little Theatre productions including "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Cabaret," and "Damn Yankees." He enjoys gardening and describes Glenn as a "politician . . . need I say more" "Slower. Go slower. Talk like we're children," is Dean's favorite line because it fits the mood of the show.

Traci Quinn Duffy . . . Cassie Cooper . . . If you don't recognize Traci, then you haven't been seeing enough theatre! Her acting resume would fill up more space than we can spare. Most recently she has appeared as Tansy in this season's smash hit "The Nerd." When she's not on stage, Traci can be found helping out doing "all kinds of backstage stuff," including serving as assistant director for "The Foreigner." Describing her character she says, "Cassie's a teensy bit neurotic . . . not all like me, I think. Well, maybe a little. (Somebody give that girl a cigarette!)"

Michael C. Slates . . . Officer Welch . . . Michael has been busy this season appearing in three out of the four productions! Audiences will remember him as Bardolph in "Lettice and Lovage" and Willum in "The Nerd." Michael spends his days as a teacher at Bates Middle school and likes to play golf and bike ride when he can find the time. He describes his character Officer Welch as "your typical cop."

Myra Yeatts . . . Officer Pudney . . . Myra is pulling double duty this time around appearing onstage and serving as properties manager. She recently earned her teaching degree and is currently working as a substitute teacher for District 17. This season she also appeared in "Lettice and Lovage" as the mousy Miss Framer. She says that she doesn't have anything else witty and charming to add to her biography because "that's not in character for me on this show."

Production Staff

Producers.....Katie Damron, Eric Bultman, Marge Cowles
Director.....Katie Damron
Stage Manager.....Marge Cowles
Set Designer.....Randy Abbottt
Master Carpenter.....Ken Poston
Set Construction.....Ken Poston,
Danny Maloney, Dean Long,
Ryan Flaherty, Audrey Sandy,
Randy Abbott, Michael C. Slates, Lynn Robinson
Scenic Artists.....Randy Abbott
Lighting Designer.....Morris Miller
Lighting Technicians.....Harvey Rice, Jennifer Smith,
Ashley Purdy, Jason Rice, Steve Kiesel
Costume Designer.....Shannon Flaherty
Costume Committee.....Shannon Flaherty
Sue Collins, Dean Long,
Marge Cowles, Randy Abbott
Properties Manager.....Myra Yeatts
Properties Committee.....Lettie Howard
Sound Designer.....Richard Weiss
Sound Technician.....Richard Weiss
Hair.....Donny Floyd
Graphic Artist.....Matthew Burchstead
Playbill.....Shannon Mewborn
Publicity Manager.....Eric Bultman
Poster.....Randy Abbott,
Traci Quinn Duffy, Matthew Burchstead
Box Office Manager.....Jeanne Purdy
Box Office Committee.....Junior Welfare League
Placement & other volunteers
House Manager.....Shannon Mewborn
Ushers.....SLT Youth Theatre Students
And volunteers

Contributors

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For distributing our flyers thanks to Food Lion, Kroger-Sav-On, Winn-Dixie, Piggly Wiggly and Wal-Mart. For furnishing our set thanks to Estate Antiques and Broadstone Manor Antiques.

And, an extra special thank you to Brian Amick and The Black Tie for the men's formal wear.

Ross McKenzie has been an SLT mainstay since he represented the Sumter County Cultural Commission during the reformation of the theatre. He joined the board of directors soon after, leading the group through season membership drives, guiding business decisions and offering his expertise and leadership as the board planned for the future.

The board reluctantly accepted Ross' resignation earlier this year.

Harvey Rice will be missed at SLT. Since 1991 he has worked on virtually every production. The Air Force brought him to us from Alaska and now their sending him to New Jersey. Bye Harvey. Come back soon.

Rumors is the last play of the season. Our 1994-95 season will begin in the fall and we are currently selecting the plays that will be presented. The kick-off of our season support campaign is just around the corner. Please support us by purchasing a season membership. Your contributions make The Sumter Little Theatre possible.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two members of the Sumter Little Theatre family.

Helen Walton served as Box Office Chairwoman since our reorganization in 1986. Her generous spirit and sunny smile brightened our days and eased us through the opening of every show.

Don Carter, Sumter County Cultural Director was a strong supporter of the arts. He won our hearts with his memorable performance in "I'm Herbert" and continued to give his best offstage through the years.

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